with retrospective effect from June, 1999 from Rs. 578/Metric tonne to Rs. 750/MT subject to the limit of 20% of well head value.

Rejection of CTBT by US Senate

*78. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US senate has rejected the ratification of the CTBT;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what concrete steps Government are contemplating on CTBT issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) On October 13, 1999, the US Senate rejected the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) submitted by the US President for the advice and consent of the Senate. 48 senators voted in favour of the treaty while 51 voted against.

(c) India's position on the CTBT was articulated by the Prime Minister in the UN General Assembly in September 1998 and in Parliament in December, 1998. This was reiterated by the External Affairs Minister at the UN General Assembly in September 1999. That remains the Government's position. Discussions on a range of issues, including the CTBT, are in process with our key interlocutors. The Government remains ready to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion. Naturally, this requires the creation of a positive environment as we work towards creating the widest possible consensus domestically. We also expect that other countries shall adhere to this treaty without any conditions.

Cultivated Land Area

*79. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cultivated land area has remained unchanged and the rate of food production has declined over the years;

(b) if so, what are the exact figures in this regard; and

(c) in the wake of increasing population how does Government propose to deal with this situation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The cultivated land area in the country in 1979-80 was 154.6 million hectares and it increased to 156.03 million hectares in 1995-96. However, the compound growth rate of total foodgrains production during 1989-90 to 1998-99 was 1.8% compared to 3.54% during 1979-80 to 1989-90.

(c) In order to increase the production and productivity of various foodgrains the Government is implementing centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development